



The President's Daily Brief

31 July 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

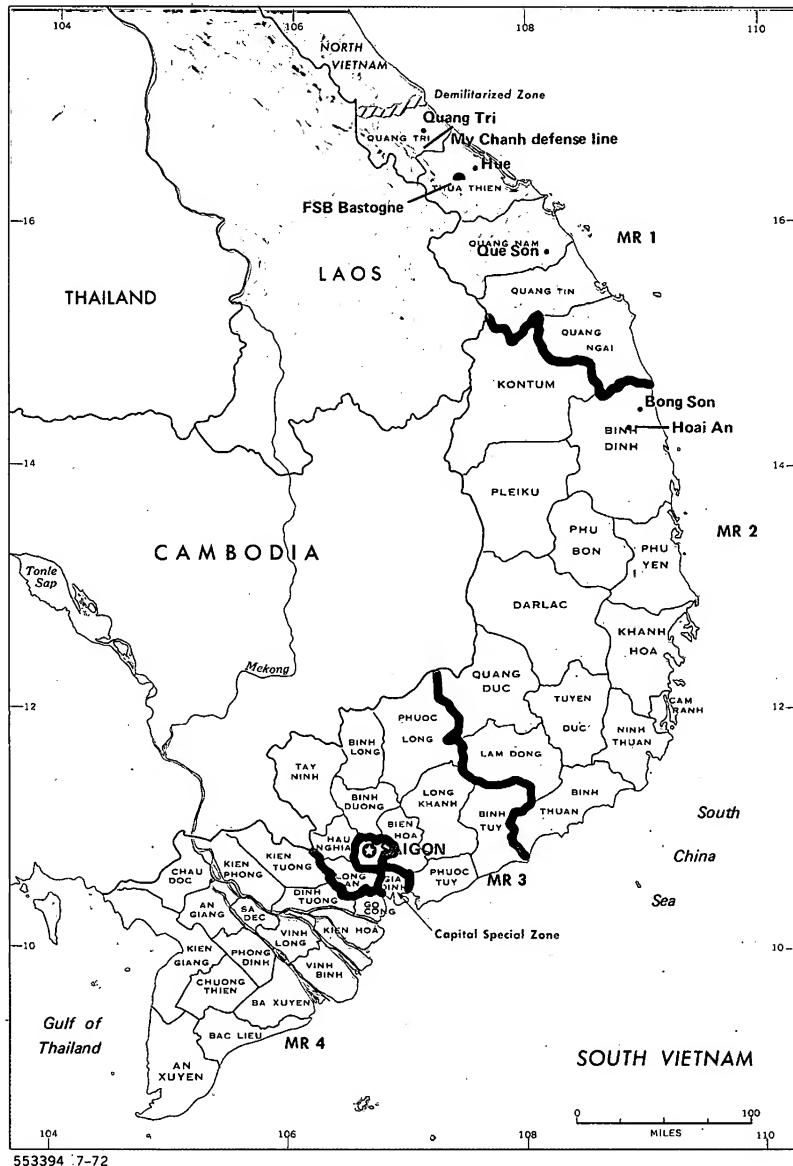
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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, fighting continues in the northern provinces amid signs that the Communists are planning new attacks. (Page 1)

Government forces in Laos are making little progress in their efforts to recapture territory lost during the dry season. (Page 2)

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VIETNAM

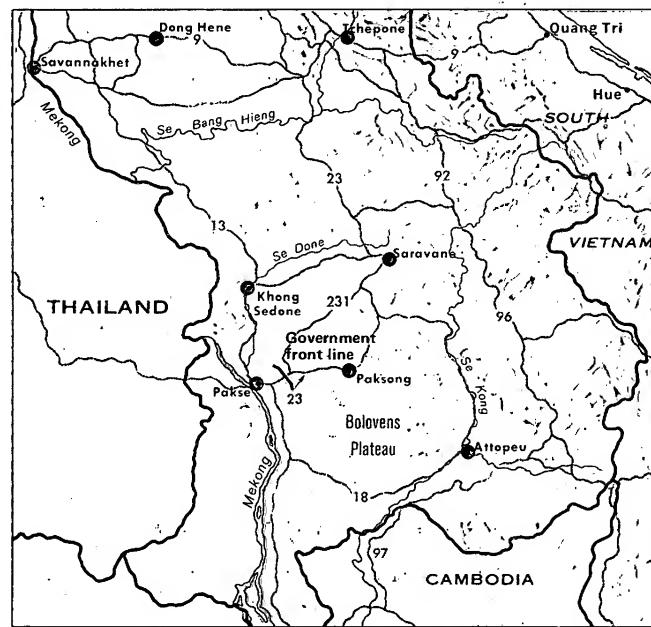
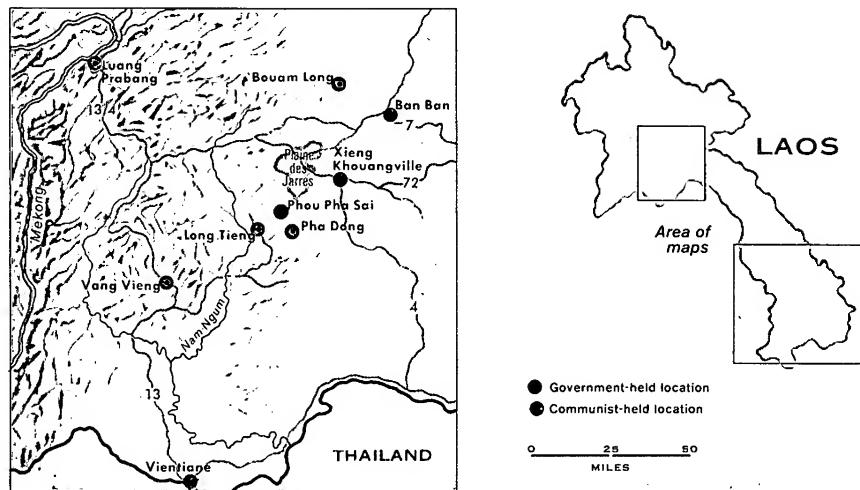
Over the weekend, South Vietnamese Marines and paratroopers repulsed several enemy attacks, including one tank-led assault, against government positions in Quang Tri City and along the western end of the My Chanh Defense Line to the south. Several sharp Communist ground probes also occurred near enemy-held Fire Support Base Bastogne west of Hue, where Communist tanks were sighted last week. Enemy intercepts indicate that additional Communist armor may be en route to this area from the Laos panhandle.

Intercepts show that enemy reinforcements are being "rushed" into the Quang Tri City area and that the Communists have drawn up new attack plans. North Vietnamese antiaircraft units located a few miles northwest of the Citadel have been ordered to "strike extremely hard."

Farther south, government forces in Quang Nam Province are still engaged in heavy fighting with elements of the North Vietnamese 711th Division near the Que Son district capital. There are signs that the Communists are attempting to move toward heavily populated coastal areas and intend to move armor and artillery into Quang Nam Province.

South Vietnamese forces in Binh Dinh Province report continued stiff resistance to clearing operations in the northern part of the province. Government forces apparently have pulled out of the Hoai An district capital, and heavy fighting is under way in nearby Bong Son.

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LAOS

Government forces are making little progress in their efforts to recapture territory lost during the dry season. In south Laos, irregulars have consolidated their hold on Khong Sedone, but are still encountering stubborn resistance in the surrounding area. On the Bolovens Plateau, the Communists have thwarted government attempts to push east from the junction of Routes 23 and 231.

During the rainy season last year, government forces attempted to retake Paksong and establish themselves on the central portion of the Plateau. This year, the Communists are seeking to keep government forces tied down in the western Bolovens and Khong Sedone areas well away from the infiltration corridor to the east.

In the north, the government's effort to recapture the hills southwest of the Plaine des Jarres has stalled, in part because bad weather has limited air support. Government units on a ridge just south of Phou Pha Sai returned to Pha Dong last week after being attack by small North Vietnamese forces.

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